SF 24 Uru-1-2

1: Métraux, Alfred. Contribution à l'Ethnographie et à la Linguistique des Indiens Uro d'Ancoaqui (Bolivie) /Contribution to the Ethnography and Linguistics of the Uro Indians of Ancoaqui (Bolivia)/. Journal de la Société des Américanistes de Paris, n.s., Vol. 27, pp. 75-110. Paris, 1935.

4 end plates. /HRAF MS. pp. 1-25/.

Yale: C51 +Sol3 II. 27-28.

/Translated from the French for the Human Relations Area Files by Priscilla Reynolds.

/This source presents a succinct account of the material culture, social organization and religion of a group of Uru Indians living on the right bank of the Desaguadero River at the village called Ancoaqui, some twenty-five kilometers south of the Bolivian port of Guaqui. The author, accompanied by Professor A. Posnánsky, visited the village for a period of one week in June, 1931, for the primary purpose of obtaining some cross-cultural linguistic data for his Čipaya dictionary. In the process of collecting this linguistic information,

1: Metraux, Alfred.

however, many observations were made on other aspects of Uru ethnography, which form the content of this source. In his discussion of material culture, the author describes the following: dwellings and their furnishings, fishing and fishing equipment, fowling, agriculture (or lack thereof), construction of native boats (balsas), mat and rope making, and dress. The few aspects of social organization discussed in the text pertain only to a listing of clans, and moieties and a few brief notes on community leadership. Religion is treated in terms of customs related to the Pačamama or "earth mother." Additional brief paragraphs discuss native mythology, the general "character" of the Uru, and linguistics. The end plates have been renumbered for simplicity of reference./

Field date: 1931
Analyst: John Beierle

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1966

2: Métraux, Alfred. Les Indiens Uro-Čipaya de Carangas /The Uru-Chipaya Indians of Carangas/. Journal de la Société des Américanistes, n.s., Vol. 27, pp. 111-128, 325-415; Vol. 28, pp. 155-207, 337-394. Paris, 1935-36.

15 text figures; 2 tables; 14 plates; 2 maps; bibliography.

/HRAF MS: pp. 1-223/.

Yale: C51 +So13 II.27-28.

Translated from the French for the Human Relations Area Files by Priscilla Reynolds.

Not translated for the Files: pp. 395-415 of Vol. 27, consisting of myths and texts; and pp. 342-394 of Vol. 28, consisting of word list, native texts, and bibliography.

[This is a basic source on the ethnography and language of the Chipaya segment of the Uru-Chipaya ethnolinguistic group of the Bolivian altiplano south of Lake Titicaca. The Chipaya are now "a small, semi-independent tribe" which is gradually disappearing as a result of both biological attrition and Aymara acculturation. At the time of Métraux's field work he estimated the population to be about 350, nearly all of whom lived in the one remaining village of Chipaya located in the southern part of Carangas Province. The monograph focuses upon religion, material culture (including the subsistence economy), and language, in that order, with valuable but much briefer data on environment, population, settlement patterns,

2: Métraux, Alfred.

and social organization. Probably the best section is that on material culture. The data on religion consist largely of traditional descriptions of rituals and ceremonies, with very little functional analysis. Most disappointing is the very inadequate treatment of social organization. Despite these deficiencies, Uru-Chipaya ethnography is of particular significance from a historical standpoint. Métraux demonstrates that the Chipaya have retained many ancient Andean culture traits. As a consequence, Chipaya culture provides a basis for a deeper understanding or interpretation of Incan ethnographic and archeological data. A good deal of comparative cultural material is presented concerning the Inca (SE13) and the Aymara (SF5). The foreign text has been repaginated as pp. 1-240.]

Field date: 1930-31
Analyst: Robert O. Lagacé

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1966

3: Vellard, Jehan. Contribution à l'Etude des Indiens Uru ou Kot'suñs /Contribution to the Study of the Uru or Kot'suñ Indians/. Travaux de l'Institut Français d'Etudes Andines, Vol. 1, pp. 145-209. Paris-Lima, 1949.

3 tables; 9 plates containing 27 photographs; bibliography. /HRAF MS: pp. 1-51/.

Yale: Peru A65p In73t 1-4.

Translated from the French for the Human Relations Area Files by Priscilla Reynolds.

Not translated for the Files: language texts on pp. 151-169; see category 116, foreign text.

/This is an important although disappointing source. It is the first of a series of articles by Vellard and his associates resulting from a long range, multi-disciplinary research project centering upon the Lake Titicaca region of the Andean area. A significant part of Vellard's own work has focused on the "Uru of Iru-Itu." He says he first visited the Uru in 1938; subsequently, he "was in constant contact with them" during his stay in Bolivia from 1940 to 1944. (In a later publication he notes that he made frequent trips to "Iru-Itu" between 1940 and 1954.) In view of this extensive field experience, the ethnographic data presented in the source at hand are not of the scope and quality one might have expected. The article opens with a short but very important discussion of the devastating impact upon Uru life of the severe drought which struck the area from 1940 to 1945. In essense, the consequence has been the virtual extinction of the Uru as an ethnic group. The bulk of the article then follows, divided into 2 major sections - first, linguistic and cultural data, second, physical anthropology consisting principally of anthropometric and serological

3: Vellard, Jehan.

data. The second section will not be discussed except to note that it includes a complete list of the population of "Iru-Itu" as of 1942 by name, sex, age, and some associated information. In the first section Vellard presents a series of Uru language texts on various cultural topics. He follows this with a three-part analysis of each text consisting of a) a free translation, b) a cultural commentary, and c) linguistic notes. The texts were obtained from two elderly, male Uru informants. The cultural topics and commentary deal mainly with the manufacture of balsa boats, fishing, acquatic bird hunting, funeral customs, and various beliefs and attitudes. Particularly interesting comparisons are made between Uru and Chipaya texts from the standpoint of linguistics and cultural emphases. /

Field date: 1938-1944
Analyst: Robert O. Lagacé

Evaluation: Anthropologist-5
Processed in 1966

4: Vellard, Jehan. Notes et Documents Bibliographiques sur les Ourous /Bibliographic Notes and Documents on the Uru/. Travaux de l'Institut Français d'Etudes Andines, Vol. 7, pp. 29-41. Paris-Lima, 1959-1960.

Yale: Peru A65p In73t 5-8. /HRAF MS: pp. 1-16/.

Translated from the French for the Human Relations Area Files by A. Brunel.

Not translated for the Files: bibliography on pp. 40-41; see category 116, foreign text.

[This source consists of brief ethnographic extracts concerning the Uru taken from Spanish accounts dating mostly from the latter part of the 16th century and early 17th century. Vellard claims these are the chief relevant passages, which is unfortunate but understandable since the accounts deal mainly with the Incan empire and the Spanish colonial administration. Though scanty, the data are important and provide a valuable base line for a study of Uru cultural continuity and change. Vellard has performed a most useful service with the publication of these data and the relevant bibliographical citations. The bibliography at the end of the article does not refer to the text; rather, it lists many of the principal "modern" works concerning the Uru. Bibliographical references in the text have not been marked for category 113 since they appear on nearly every page and may be consulted as efficiently in category 116.]

Field date: no date
Analyst: Robert O. Lagacé

Evaluation: Anthropologist-4, 5
Processed in 1966

5: La Barre, Weston. The Uru-Chipaya. Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin 143, Vol. 2, pp. 575-585. Washington: Smithsonian Institution, 1946.

8 plates containing 27 photographs.

HRAF Copy.

[This is a detailed ethnographic summary of Uru and Chipaya culture, outlining the main features of each group, and revealing some of the major distinctions between them. The Uru are treated more fully than the Chipaya. Although La Barre did field work in this area, especially among the Aymara, he does not specify which, if any, of the data in this article are derived from his personal observations. Plates 1 through 112 accompanied other articles in Vol. 2, and were not processed for this file. Also, the full bibliographical references are incorporated into a general bibliography at the end of Vol. 2, pp. 979-1035, and should be consulted there.

Field date: 1937-38
Analyst: Robert O. Lagacé

Evaluation: Ethnologist-5
Processed in 1966

6: Ruiz, Jorge, and Augusto Roca. Visita a los Chipayas /Visit to the Chipayas/. Boletin Indigenista, Vol. 17, pp. 215-219. México, D.F.: Instituto Indigenista Inter-americano, 1957.

3 photographs.

HRAF Copy.

[Although the authors spent almost a month among the Chipayas, this very brief article is of minimal ethnographic value. Its usefulness lies mainly in its recent date, the impression it gives of lack of change in material culture from the time of Métraux's study some twenty-five years previously, and the research suggestions presented on p. 19. The text is in both Spanish and English on alternate pages.]

Field date: ca. 1956
Analyst: Robert O. Lagacé

Evaluation: Educators-3
Processed in 1966

7: Ruiz Camacho, Rubén. Here the Past Lives On. Américas, Vol. 12, No. 8, pp. 19-22. Washington, D.C.: Pan American Union, 1960.

6 photographs.

Yale: CF1401 A451 12.

[This is a pedestrian article containing very little if any data not previously covered in other sources. Also, it is not clear to what extent, if any, primary data are represented in the material.]

Field date: no date
Analyst: Robert O. Lagacé

Evaluation: Journalist - 3
Processed in 1966

8: Fain, Cynthia. The People of the Lake. Antiquity and Survival, Vol. 1, pp. 303-314. The Hague, 1955.

9 photographs.

Yale: B50 +An87 1.

[This is a brief, superficial account, with excellent photographs, of a short visit to an Uru village. Although it contains only scattered bits of useful data, it is of value because it is one of our few first-hand accounts of the village of Iruitu (Iru Itu), as well as one of the most recent. If the author's impressions were correct, one of the most striking points made in the article concerns the very marginal standard of living of the villagers.]

Field date: ca. 1954
Analyst: Robert O. Lagacé

Evaluation: Traveler-5
Processed in 1966

9: La Barre, Weston. The Uru of the Rio Desaguadero. American Anthropologist, n.s., Vol. 43, pp. 493-522. Menasha: The American Anthropological Association, 1941.

4 photographs.

HRAF Copy.

[This is a comprehensive and very useful summary of Uru ethnography. It is based mostly upon the literature, but includes some personal observations made by the author in March, 1938, during a visit of "some days" to the village of Ancoaqui incidental to his main study of Aymara ethnography. Among the most valuable new data is the list of kinship terms which La Barre collected at Ancoaqui. Also, he differs with previous personality characterizations of the Uru, having found them to be much more congenial than the Aymara. Two other significant features are his summary of Polo's data concerning the distribution of Uru speakers at the end of the nineteenth century, listing specific communities and their locations, and his analysis of Uru linguistic affiliations, particularly the problem of the Uru identity of the ancient Puquina language. Beyond this, the article summarizes the major aspects of Uru culture, ranging from physical anthropology through subsistence economy and material culture, to social organization and religion.]

Field date: 1938
Analyst: Robert O. Lagacé

Evaluation: Ethnologist-4, 5
Processed in 1966